

to pure white.' Even though the gaur is widely distributed in the Subcontinent, this phenomenon appears to be unique to Manjampatti area. However, since 1940 there have been no reports about these odd coloured gaur. E.R.C. Davidar (1970) set out on a BNHS sponsored mission to find and photograph them, but submitted a negative report. It was presumed that the Rinderpest which ravaged this area had wiped them out.

Recently, two herds of gaur with three greyish white individuals were observed in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Idukki dist., Kerala. Chinnar is contiguous with Manjampatti Valley. On Oct. 21, 1997, at 1810 h, two greyish white gaur, an adult female and a sub-adult were observed on the slopes of Cheevaparamala along with nine other gaur. A juvenile of the same colour was found at Koottar on January 3, 1998 along with five other animals. The typical white stockings are not distinguishable on these greyish

white gaur. Interestingly, the colour of the majority of the animals in these herds ranges from brick red to light red. In the first herd of eleven gaur there were only four normal coloured individuals and in the second herd two, including a magnificent black bull. These herds are extremely wary, and bolt at the first whiff of human scent. This is the first record of White Bison from Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.

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5. FIVE STRIPED SQUIRREL *FUNAMBULUS PENNANTI* OBSERVED EATING HONEY

(With one plate)

I had been to Bigwan to photograph flamingoes and on the way to Dalaz No. 2 village, I noticed that on a tall Acacia tree there were three beehives. Two beehives were full of wasps and one beehive was abandoned. To my surprise, I saw a five striped squirrel *Funambulus pennanti* moving up and down the beehive. I watched through my binoculars and to my surprise, I found the squirrel nibbling at the beehive and licking the honey as it started flowing out. It was astonishing that the wasps on the hive and on

the other two beehives did not attack the squirrel. I have read of the honey buzzard, honey bird and the badger eating honey. The above observation could be the first record of a squirrel feeding on honey from a hive with wasps. It is possible that the wasps drove away the bees from the nest

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